

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



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**Vision:** To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 4, 2013

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**DISPLAY REMINDS PARENTS TO NEVER LEAVE CHILD ALONE IN CAR**

**ORLANDO** - The Florida Department of Health in Seminole County has partnered with Safe Kids Seminole to remind parents to never leave a child alone in a car. To gain perspective on such a tragic incident, the health department located at 400 West Airport Boulevard in Sanford will be having a hyperthermia display during the month of September.

"A child's body temperature heats up three to five times faster than an adult. Children can inadvertently be left in a car or they can enter a car on their own. This type of tragedy is preventable, and as a parent, we need to make a personal commitment to being aware of our children at all times," says Dr. Swannie Jett, Health Officer of the Department of Health in Seminole County.

Unfortunately, no one is immune to this kind of tragedy. Parents and caregivers can cut down the number of deaths and near misses by remembering to **ACT**.

- A:** Avoid heatstroke-related injury and death by never leaving your child alone in a car, not even for a minute. Also make sure to always keep your car locked when you're not in it, so kids don't get in the car on their own.
- C:** Create reminders by putting something in the back of your car next to your child such as a briefcase, a purse or a cell phone that is needed at your final destination. This is especially important if you're not following your normal routine.
- T:** Take action. If you see a child alone in a car, call 911. Emergency personnel want you to call. They are trained to respond to these situations. One call could save a life.

Since 1998, more than 550 children across the United States have died from heatstroke while unattended in cars. You can help us spread the word to your community to stop these preventable tragedies. Additional prevention information can be found at [www.safekids.org/heatstroke](http://www.safekids.org/heatstroke), and statistics on child heatstroke deaths can be found at [www.ggweather.com/heat](http://www.ggweather.com/heat).

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